Mercer, M S

Sept., Oct. 1915

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September 21st, 1915

Brigadier-General Mercer,

Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Dear General Mercer:

Allow me to congratulate you on your promotion ? I hope that you will be given the health and strength necessary for your new and most difficult responsibility.

We are about to begin a new term at the University and I hope that we may be able to keep before the students the serious crisis that is upon us and that the result will be still more active enlistment. We have lost heavily in the University, and a large number of our staff are on active service of one kind or another, and there are now about 1200 graduates and undergraduates at the front. This is as it should be, because if the ~~more intelligent~~ intelligent portion of the community grasps the meaning of this struggle and shows the grasp by action, what we can expect of the others ?

I am venturing to send you a copy of a little book that I published this summer. It contains for the most part what I told the students and others last winter. If you have any spare moments perhaps you will be interested in looking through it.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

P

you heralded a pleasure and a benefit will always be a happy memory -

Really the only thing worth striving for is effective service. If in its course one can win the affectionate regards of his comrades he has achieved the best that Earth can give -

It is pleasing to learn that the University has done so well in the matter of sending men to the front - I'm sure your influence has been a prime factor in that attainment -

Many thanks for Book you

Oct 14 - 15 -

Dear Col Falconer: -

It is with deep appreciation of your generous words of congratulations that I acknowledge your letter of the 21st Sept -

am somewhat at a loss to know what was in your mind as no intimation of any promotion has been given me - that however in no way lessens the high value of your considerate action - Even though the substance never materializes the fact that

Kindly forwarded me - I have read considerable of it and enjoyed every line

Your ideas of patriotism I fear are not shared by the young men of Either Britain or Canada. The begging and wheedling of men in England is pitiable to behold. Especially in such a time of danger to the Empire - Although we hear of great recruiting in Canada the 2nd Div only arrived here some two weeks ago and all through the summer we were terribly short of men. Universal Service will probably be more favorably considered now for it is quite apparent that a nation is only half alive that is satisfied to have its national strength develop in accordance with the inclinations of its subjects. Nationhood means little to a man who depends on his neighbor for security. Where all bear responsibility the burden is lightened and safety assured -

You did not speak too highly of the men of the first contingent I can speak quite for personally and assure you that they all counted duty higher than life and made every sacrifice with cheerfulness - They have striven and not in vain to uphold the best traditions of the army and also to emulate the splendid deeds of gallantry of their allied comrades in the field. Faithfully W D Mercer